



**P. O. Box 1342
Royal Oak, MI 48086**

**Representing
Michigan's
Interior Design
Community**

The following is the definition of a "registered design professional" as defined in the 2003 Michigan International Building Code:

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Student Representative

REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL - an individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the state or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.

Interior designers are neither registered nor licensed in the state of Michigan.

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Michelle Belt, IIDA
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William McKay, CKD
NKBA Liaison
Kevin McKinney
Lobbyist

Mission Statement

The Coalition for Interior Design Registration is an organization dedicated to defend and to protect the right to practice the profession of interior design in Michigan.



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Current Law (P.A.250 of 1998)

This law eliminates the need for the consumer to pay both an interior designer and an architect for virtually identical services on a single project. Under the act, an interior designer considered "qualified" by the State Board of Architects can provide certain services without an architect's seal and submit those documents to local building officials for permits. Qualified interior designers use a stamp to verify their credentials when providing such services.

(This language was a compromise arrived at by building officials, architects, and interior designers after almost 18 months of negotiations.)

Current problem:

The Department of Consumer & Industry Services (CIS) adopted the International Building Code (IBC), which recognizes only architects and engineers as "Registered Design Professionals". Interior Designers must work under the supervision of the recognized Registered Design Professional and would not be able to submit documents for permitting without an architect's seal. **This is in conflict with the legislative intent of PA 250 of 1998.**

Solution:

CIDR and its member organizations have been working on draft legislation which would help clarify the original intent of P.A. 250 of 1998. A higher level of state recognition for the interior designer is being carefully explored. Such recognition, along with minor modifications to the existing statutory definition of interior design services will bring much needed clarification for the consumer, the interior design profession and building code officials.

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Definition of Interior Design

Interior design is a multi-faceted profession in which creative and technical solutions are applied within a structure to achieve a built interior environment. These solutions are functional, enhance the quality of life and culture of the occupants, and are aesthetically attractive. Designs are created in response to and coordinated with the building shell, and acknowledge the physical location and social context of the project. Designs must adhere to code and regulatory requirements, and encourage the principles of environmental sustainability. The interior design process follows a systematic and coordinated methodology, including research, analysis and integration of knowledge into the creative process, whereby the needs and resources of the client are satisfied to produce an interior space that fulfills the project goals.

Interior design includes a scope of services performed by a professional design practitioner, qualified by means of education, experience, and examination, to protect and enhance the life, health, safety and welfare of the public. These services may include any or all of the following tasks:

- Research and analysis of the client's goals and requirements; and development of documents, drawings and diagrams that outline those needs;
- Formulation of preliminary space plans and two and three dimensional design concept studies and sketches that integrate the client's program needs and are based on knowledge of the principles of interior design and theories of human behavior;
- Confirmation that preliminary space plans and design concepts are safe, functional, aesthetically appropriate, and meet all public health, safety and welfare requirements, including code, accessibility, environmental, and sustainability guidelines;
- Selection of colors, materials and finishes to appropriately convey the design concept, and to meet socio-psychological, functional, maintenance, life-cycle performance, environmental, and safety requirements;
- Selection and specification of furniture, fixtures, equipment and millwork, including layout drawings and detailed product description; and provision of contract documentation to facilitate pricing, procurement and installation of furniture;
- Provision of project management services, including preparation of project budgets and schedules;
- Preparation of construction documents, consisting of plans, elevations, details and specifications, to illustrate non-structural and/or non-seismic partition layouts; power and communications locations; reflected ceiling plans and lighting designs; materials and finishes; and furniture layouts;
- Preparation of construction documents to adhere to regional building and fire codes, municipal codes, and any other jurisdictional statutes, regulations and guidelines applicable to the interior space;
- Coordination and collaboration with other allied design professionals who may be retained to provide consulting services, including but not limited to architects; structural, mechanical and electrical engineers, and various specialty consultants;
- Confirmation that construction documents for non-structural and/or non-seismic construction are signed and sealed by the responsible interior designer, as applicable to jurisdictional requirements for filing with code enforcement officials;
- Administration of contract documents, bids and negotiations as the client's agent;
- Observation and reporting on the implementation of projects while in progress and upon completion, as a representative of and on behalf of the client; and conducting post-occupancy evaluation reports.

Glossary Of Terms Found In The Definition Of Interior Design

"Accessibility" means features of buildings or spaces that enable use by people regardless of their level of ability.

"Building Shell" means the architecture of the existing building, including the framework, the perimeter/exterior walls, the building core and columns, and other structural, load-bearing elements of the building.

"Construction Documents" mean the detailed working drawings that define the work to be constructed. This may include partition plans, power and communications plans, reflected ceiling plans, material and finishes plans, and furniture layout plans, as well as elevations, sections and details, along with the drawings of associated consultants.

"Contract Documents" means the set of documents that form a part of the legal contract for services between two or more parties. These typically include detailed instructions to the contractor, tender forms, construction documents and specifications.

"Contract Administration" means the set of services which may include developing and monitoring schedules and construction costs; ensuring construction is completed in conformance with contracts and design intent; liaison with contractors and consultants throughout the course of construction; reviewing shop drawings and submissions from the contractor; observing and commenting on construction progress; monitoring move-in and furniture installation; and conducting required post-occupancy evaluations.

"Environmental" means the aggregate of the physical conditions of the interior environment that affects the health and safety of the occupants, including air quality and circulation, temperature control, ergonomic layout, physical circulation plan and related matters.

"Maintenance" means the ability of a product or material to be kept to its proper condition, and the work required to sustain that condition over the life of that material.

"Non-structural or non-seismic" means interior elements or components that are not load-bearing or do not assist in the seismic design and do not require design computations for a building's structure. It excludes the structural frame supporting a building. Common non-structural elements or components include, but are not limited to, ceiling and partition systems. These elements employ normal and typical bracing conventions and are not part of the structural integrity of the building.

"Partition" means a wall which does not support a vertical load of a structure other than its own weight, but may support loads attached to it such as cabinetry, shelving or grab bars, and does not extend further than from the floor of an interior area of a structure designed for human habitation or occupancy, to the underside of the deck of that structure.

"Programming" means the scope of work which includes, but is not limited to, conducting research; identifying and analyzing the needs and goals of the client and/or occupant(s) of the space; evaluating existing documentation and conditions; assessing project resources and limitations; identifying life, safety and code requirements; and developing project schedules and budgets.

"Reflected ceiling plan" means a ceiling design that illustrates a ceiling as if it was projected downward and may include lighting and other elements.

"Space planning" means the analysis and design of spatial and occupancy requirements, including, but not limited to, space layouts and final planning.

"Specifications" means the detailed written description of construction, workmanship and materials of the work to be undertaken.

"Sustainability" means the use of resources in such a way that they are not depleted; a method of practice or use of materials that is capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment.

What Does an Interior Designer Do?

An interior designer is professionally trained to create a functional and quality interior environment. Qualified through education, experience and examination, a professional designer can identify, research and creatively resolve issues and lead to a healthy, safe and comfortable physical environment.

Interior designers provide various services including:

- consulting services to help determine project goals and objectives
- generating ideas for the functional and aesthetic possibilities of the space
- creating illustrations and renderings
- developing documents and specifications relative to interior spaces in compliance with applicable building and safety codes
- allocating, organizing and arranging a space to suit its function
- monitoring and managing construction and installation of design
- selecting and specifying fixtures, furnishings, products, materials and colors
- purchasing products and fixtures
- designing and managing fabrication of custom furnishings and interior details
- designing lighting and specifying

Frequently Asked Questions About Interior Design and Designers

What is the difference between an interior designer and an interior decorator?

Interior designers are professionally trained in space planning. In 23 states, they must pass a strict exam and be licensed. While both designers and decorators are concerned with aesthetics, style and mood, interior designers have comprehensive training and command skills that may include an understanding of:

- flame spread ratings, smoke, toxicity and fire rating classifications and materials
- space planning for public and private facilities
- national, state and local building codes
- standards regarding the needs of disabled or elderly persons and other special needs groups
- ergonomics
- lighting quality and quantity
- acoustics and sound transmission

A decorator works only with surface decoration - paint, fabric, furnishings, lighting and other materials. Because no license is required, upholsterers, housepainters, and other tradespeople also claim the name "decorator."

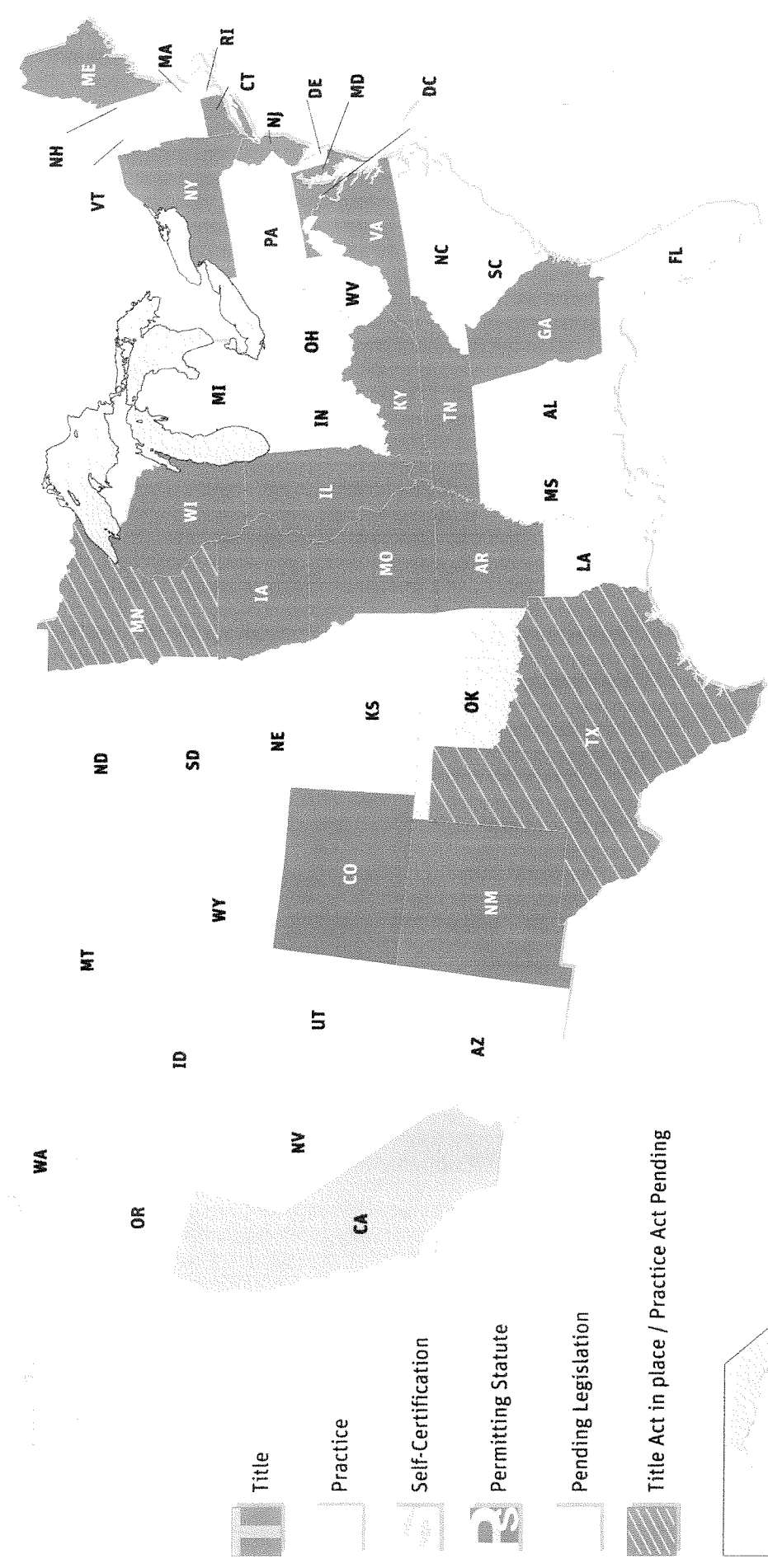
Do interior designers do more than make spaces attractive?

In addition to the aesthetics of a space, an interior designer creates a space that is functional, efficient and safe and enhances the quality of the working and living environment.

Are architects and engineers ultimately responsible for most of the jobs that interior designers perform?

No. Increasingly, buildings are designed not as completed objects, but as "shells" into which tenants and others create their own design. Think of the numerous examples of completed exteriors with incomplete interiors such as shopping malls, restaurants, office buildings, hotels and apartment complexes. Interior designers focus on and specialize in the planning of the interior elements of a building's design.

Interior Design Registration Laws



Puerto Rico



Title



Practice



Self-Certification



Permitting Statute



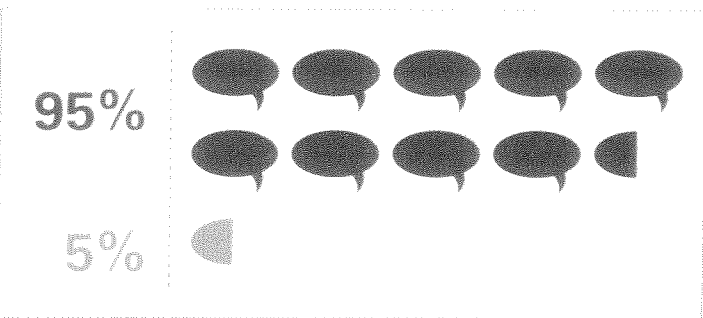
Pending Legislation



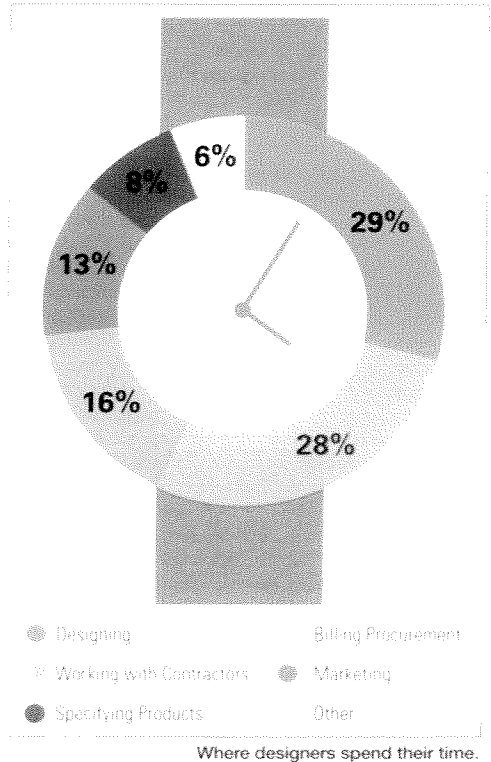
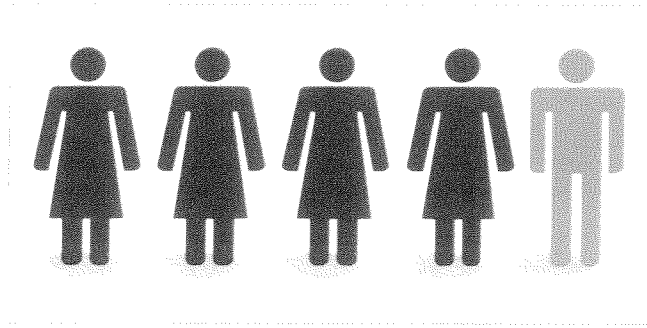
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The Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER) recent survey of five Michigan schools -
 Eastern Michigan University • Kendall College of Art & Design • Lawrence Technological University
 Michigan State University • Western Michigan University
 - 180 to 200 interior design students graduate each year.

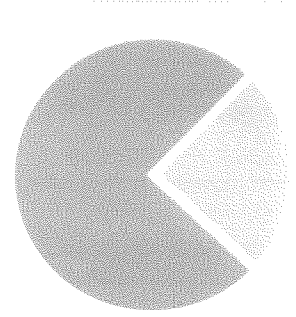
ASID surveyed small interior design firms to learn more about the work they do and the challenges they face.



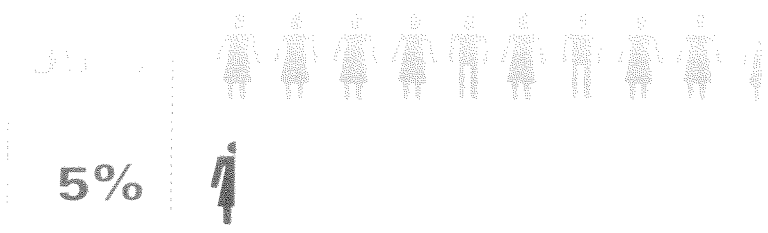
95% of survey respondents said they rely on word of mouth to market their services.



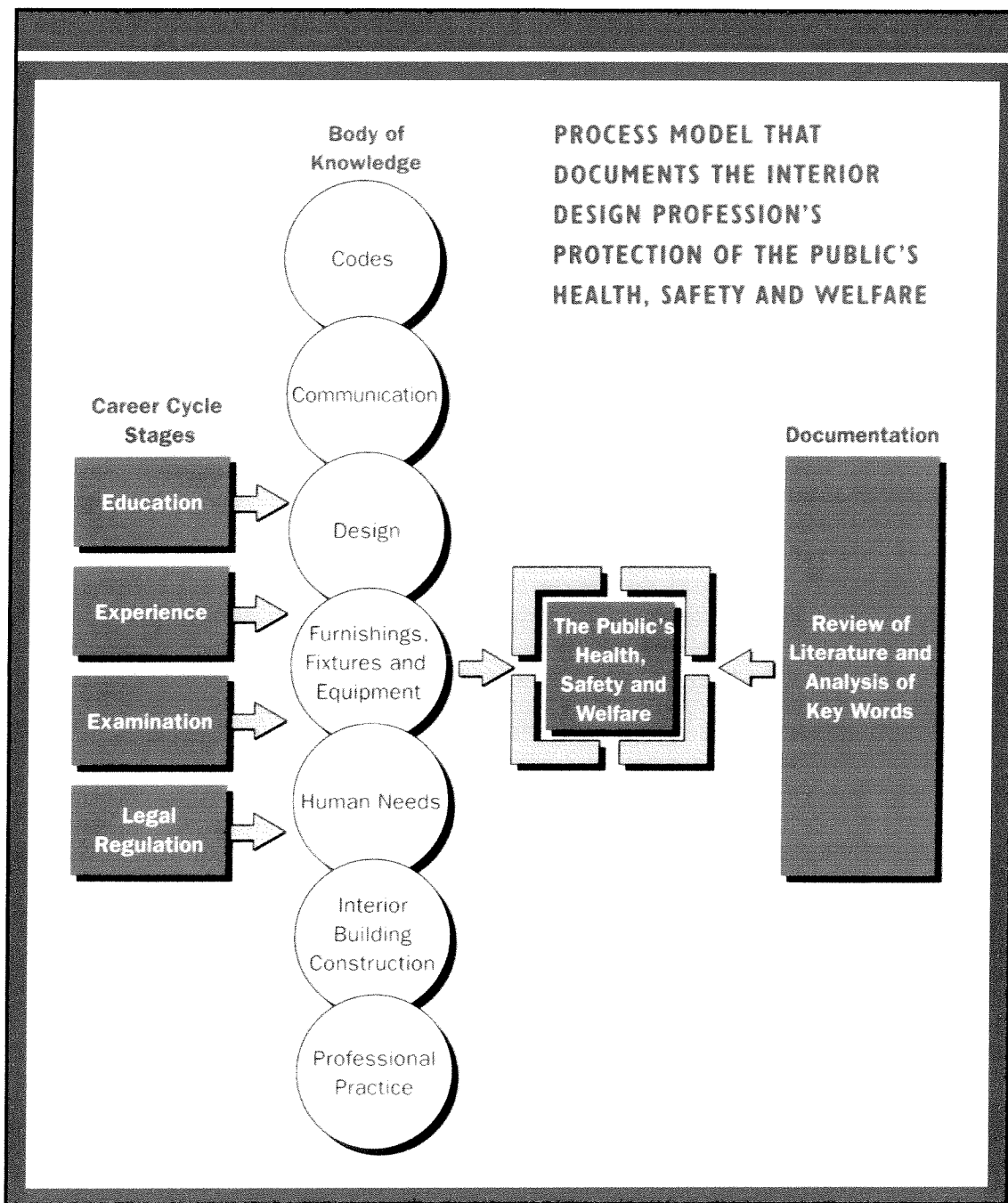
Small design firms



About two-thirds of all interior design businesses in the U.S. are either small firms or sole practitioners.



About 95% of interior designers have a college degree.



IS THIS ALL Simply a Little Misunderstanding?

Do architects know what interior designers really do?

A colleague of mine, a director at an interior design school, recently shared the following two stories with me.

One of her adjunct faculty members was interviewing for an interior design position in an architectural firm. One of the principals asked her what type of work she enjoyed the most. She commented that she enjoyed the programming aspects—determining client needs and requirements. The architect responded, “Oh, so you are really just a closet architect.”

I was taken aback when I heard the story, thinking that somewhere there is an architect who thinks programming is not something that we interior designers do. It made me wonder what they think she will contribute to their firm. I have to conclude that architects think interior designers contribute to their projects, since most large architectural firms have interior designers as principals.

The second story centers around a discussion that five students (two architecture students and three interior design students) had in a studio class. The following day two of the students approached the director and commented that they wanted to switch majors—to architecture—because the other students told them that, “All interior designers do is select finishes.”

I relay these stories because they illustrate the perception of our profession among architects and even architecture students. Perhaps the resistance that some in the architecture profession have toward interior design licensing is based on not having a clear understanding of what interior designers do either through education or experience. For instance, interior designers and architects sit side by side in at least 56 semester hours of instruction if they graduate from the University of Texas with a bachelor in architecture or interior design.

In the last few years, interior designers and architects have struggled with interior design licensing legislation. Architects believe they are trained to do interior design through their education and should, therefore, be exempted from any interior design legislation. Our profession takes the converse view: we believe that only those in a formal interior design program have been educated to do interior design, and that does not include architecture students who are on an architecture track. It is not uncommon for universities to require that interior design students take architectural courses, but not require architecture students to take interior design courses. Our position remains the same: that while our profession shares

some of the same knowledge areas as architecture, interior design and architecture are two distinct professions, each with a different set of educational requirements and distinct skills, knowledge and abilities.

WHO IS AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

There are many practicing architects who started in architecture before interior design was recognized as a distinct profession from architecture. These more seasoned professionals may have been trained in all aspects of design—from site to building envelope to interior finishes and furniture selection to even graphic design. However, today's complex buildings and environments often call for a team of trained professionals to work on a project. An interior designer is one of those trained professionals—requiring a minimum amount of education,

experience and examination. Currently 24 U.S. jurisdictions and eight Canadian provinces legally recognize interior design—requiring some combination of the above. (NCIDQ's model language for legislation recommends a minimum four-year FIDER-accredited education, two years monitored experience, plus passage of the NCIDQ examination.) These credentialing agencies are similar to ones that exist for architecture. In addition, many states are now requiring continuing education for interior designers. Chart One, below, explains further.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES DOES AN INTERIOR DESIGNER POSSESS?

Perhaps the best description of the knowledge an interior designer must have is FIDER's list of standards for accrediting interior design schools. In addition to the

PURPOSE	INTERIOR DESIGN ORGANIZATION	ARCHITECTURE ORGANIZATION
Education	FIDER —Foundation for Interior Design Education Research	NAAB —National Architectural Accrediting Board
Experience	IDEP —Interior Design Experience Program, as administered by NCIDQ	IDP —Intern Development Program as administered by NCARB
Examination	NCIDQ —National Council for Interior Design Qualification	NCARB —National Council for Architectural Registration Boards
Professional Association	ASID —American Society of Interior Designers IIDA —International Interior Design Association	AIA —American Institute of Architects

FIDER STANDARD	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS (PARTIAL LIST)
Professional Values	Program leads students to develop the attitudes, traits and values of professional responsibility, accountability and effectiveness.	Professional ethics. Consciousness of alternate points of view and appreciation of cultural diversity. Global perspective and approach to thinking and problem solving. Critical, analytical and strategic thinking. Ability to think visually and volumetrically.
Design Fundamentals	Students have a foundation in the fundamentals of art and design, theories of design and human behavior and discipline-related history.	Understanding of design fundamentals. Understanding of theories of human behavior and interior environments. History of art, architecture, interiors and furnishings.
Interior Design	Students understand and apply the knowledge, skills, processes and theories of interior design.	Apply three-dimensional design elements and principles to development of the spatial envelope. Select and apply color in projects. Programming skills including problem identification, problem solving, identification of client and/or user needs, information gathering research and analysis. Competent schematic design and concept development skills including concept statements, ability to rapidly visualize concepts through sketching, space planning (adjacencies, circulation, articulation and shaping of space). Competent design development skills including selection of interior finishes and materials, detailed layout of ff&e, space plans, elevations, sketches, study models selection and application of luminaires and lighting sources. Competent skills in preparation of drawings, schedules and specifications as an integrated system of contract documents. Design development skills including selection and application of art, design of custom interior elements, wayfinding methods, graphic identification (signage).
Communication	Students communicate effectively.	Competence in drafting and lettering—manual and CAD. Presentation of color, materials and furnishings (samples boards, mock-ups, digital representations, etc.). Communicate clearly in writing, specifications, schedules and contracts, project programs, concept statements, reports, etc. Ability to render, draw in perspective, construct models.
Building Systems and Interior Materials	Students design within the context of building systems. Students use appropriate materials and products.	Understanding that design solutions affect and are impacted by construction systems and methods, power distribution systems, HVAC, energy management, data/voice telecom, lighting, ceiling, flooring, security systems, acoustics, interface of workstation furniture systems with building systems. Demonstrate that materials and products are appropriately selected and applied on the basis of their properties and performance criteria. Demonstrate understanding of sustainable resources. Knowledge of installation methods and material maintenance requirements.
Regulations	Students apply the laws, codes, regulations, standards and practices that protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.	Understanding of the impact of fire and life safety principles including compartmentalization (fire separation), movement (stairwells, corridors, exitways), detection (smoke/heat detectors and alarm systems) and suppression (sprinklers/fire hose cabinets). Demonstrate appropriate application of codes, regulations and standards (ANSI, CSI, IES, NBC, UBC, etc.), barrier-free design concepts and ergonomic and human factors data. Understanding of the impact on health and welfare of indoor air quality, noise and lighting. Understanding of universal design concepts and principles.
Business and Professional Practice	Students have a foundation in business and professional practice.	Understanding of project management practices including estimating, budget management, coordination of project team, time management, scheduling and contract administration. Information management, conflict resolution and assessment processes (post-occupancy evaluation, productivity, square footage ratios). Knowledge of business computer applications, business processes (marketing, strategic planning and accounting procedures).

qualified professional). Finally, passage of the NCIDQ examination ensures that an interior designer meets minimum competency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Interior designers are not "closet architects," and "selecting finishes" is a very small part of what we do today. Interior designers are educated and trained to do interior design work—work that impacts human behavior and well-being. Interior designers have been working diligently in many states to pass legislation to legally regulate our profession. In many states, the designers have met with resistance from architects. One of their arguments against legislation is that the public will be at risk. Those truly concerned with public health, safety and welfare should embrace licensing legislation. We must work with our architecture colleagues to put public protection above all other things—including egos and the misperception of increased competition.

Interior design has matured into a profession that contributes to society's well-being. Successful passage of interior design legislation in all U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions is a natural step toward maturation of the profession. ●

Donna Vining, FASID, is the current NCIDQ past-president and president of Vining Design Associates, Inc., in Houston, TX, specializing in residential project management. She has been a registered interior designer in Texas since 1993 and is an NCIDQ Certificate holder. For more information about NCIDQ, visit its Web site at www.ncidq.org. For more information about FIDER or for a complete copy of FIDER Professional Standards, contact FIDER at (616) 458-0400 or visitgo to www.fider.org or contact the FIDER office at (616) 458-0400.

expected standards around curriculum structure, faculty, facilities, administration and assessment, FIDER requires interior design programs to meet standards ranging from Professional Values to Building Systems and Regulations. Chart 2 (above) lists

the standards, and includes examples of the "indicators" that FIDER reviewers look for when assessing a program.

Clearly, the value an interior design professional brings to an architectural project—whether a small house renovation or a

multi-million-square-foot international project—is deeper than the FIDER list of requirements in Chart 2. NCIDQ's IDEP (Interior Design Experience Program) requires further experience in all areas of practice (a minimum of 3,520 hours working for a



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**Representing
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Michigan Colleges and Universities with Interior Design Programs

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BAKER COLLEGE 1050 W. Bristle Rd Flint, MI 48507 Fax: 810-766-4049	810/766-4030
COLLEGE FOR CREATIVE STUDIES 210 East Kirby Detroit, MI 48202-4034 Fax: 313-664-7617 Website: www.ccsad.edu	313/664-7632
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Mount Pleasant, MI 48859 Fax: 989-774-2435 Website: www.cmich.edu\interior.html	517/774-4000
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY 206 Roosevelt Hall Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Fax: 734-487-7087 Website: www.emich.edu	734/487-0652
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY 1850 Research Drive Troy, MI 48083 Website: www.goiadtdetroit.com	248/457-2721
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LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE P.O. Box 40010 Lansing, MI 48901 Fax: 517-483-9619 Website: www.lansing.cc.mi.us	517/483-1957
LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY 21000 West Ten Mile Road Southfield, MI 48075 Fax: 248-204-2900 Website: www.ltu.edu	248/204-4000
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY 204 Human Ecology East Lansing, MI 48854-1030 Fax: 517-353-9426 Website: www.msu.edu	517/355-1855
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY 150 Community Arts Detroit, MI 48202 Fax: 313-577-3491 Website: www.wayne.edu.com	313/577-3047
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Department Of Family and Consumers Sciences 1903 West Michigan Kalamazoo, MI 49008 Fax: 616-387-3353 Website: www.wmich.edu	616/387-3704

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